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September 24, 2008

Hi Barbara,

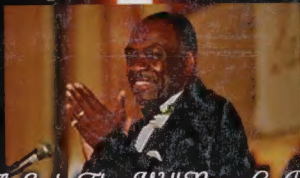
I pray all is well with you and yours. We experienced a tremendous Memorial Service for Rev. Roberts. Over 500 people came out to express their love, appreciation and condolences to his family. I read your expression of sympathy to the congregation. They enjoyed it immensely. Enclosed please find the program. I'm sorry I never had the opportunity to meet you or spend time with you, but I am glad you knew Uncle Lawrence. I heard him speak of you often and he loved you very much.

All the Best,


Rev. Stefanie R. Minatee

**Celebrating The Life And Legacy
of
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Curtis Roberts**

August 12, 1936 - July 14, 2008



"A Light That Will Never Go Dim"

Service

*Saturday, September 13, 2008
5:30 p.m.*

Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church

88 Lyons Avenue Newark, New Jersey
Rev. Allan S. Potts, Sr. - Pastor

*Officiating: Rev. Eddie Allen, Pastor
Philemon Baptist Church • Newark, NJ*

Order of Service

Prelude Video Presentation



Candle Lighting

Processional (Family and Friends) *"One of These Days I'll Cross That River"*
Angelic Choir/Adult Choir

Welcome *Rev. Allan S. Potts, Pastor*
Greater Abyssinian B.C.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament *Rev. Elijah Williams*
Pastor, Welcome Baptist Church
Newark, NJ

Dr. Kenneth Pearman
Pastor, ROFJCC
Stroudsburg, PA

New Testament *Dr. J. Olandus Ponder III*
Pastor, Abundant Grace Church
Virginia Beach, VA

Bishop Harold "Buster" Simmons
Pastor, New Life Fellowship
Newark, NJ

Introit *"In My Father's House"*
Combined Choirs

Prayer of Comfort *Elder Paul Carrington*
Pastor, Love Center International
Cleveland, Ohio

Choral Response *"Total Praise"*

Musical Selection *"The Lord is My Shepherd"*
Angelic Choir/Adult Choir

Condolences and Acknowledgements

Reflections and Resolutions (2 minutes please)

As Employee *Sis Louise Smith*

As Friend *Bro. Melvin Dickey-Kemp*

As Neighbor Deacon Charles Robinson
As Member Deacon Clarence Jones
As Colleague Dr. Granville Seward

Musical Selection Dr. Emily "Cissy" Houston

Reflections and Resolutions Cont'd

First Baptist Church of Nutley

Sons and Daughters in Ministry

The Church Community Deacon Moses Rountree
Good Neighbor B.C., Newark, NJ

The Community at Large The City of Nutley, NJ
The City of Newark, NJ

The New Jersey State Assembly Assemblywoman Cleo Tucker

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Musical Selections Rev. Stefanie Minatee & Jubilation

As Brother Bro. Freeman Johnson

As Musician Min. Donnie Harper

As Producer Rev. Charles Banks

As Pastor Deacon Raymond "Gene" Murphy

Family Rev. Derrick Roberts

Silent Reading of Obituary

Musical Selection "Peace Be Still"
Combined Choirs

Words of Comfort Rev. Eddie Allen, Pastor
Philemon B.C.

Selection "I Shall Wear A Crown"

Tribute to Delores "Bootsy" Roberts The LCR Memorial Team
Raymond "Gene" Murphy

Benediction

Recessional (Family and Clergy) "Fly Robin Fly"

"A Light That Will Never Go Dim"



Rev. Dr. Lawrence Curtis Roberts was born August 12, 1936 in Newark, N.J. to the late James and Estelle Roberts. Raised in a loving and nurturing environment by his grandparents George and Annabelle Holmes. Lawrence attended the Newark Public School System, graduating from its prestigious Arts High School. He met the love of his life, Delores "*Bootsy*" Pigford, at the age of 12. Several years later, they were married. Through this union three children were born. Derrick, Vanessa, and Renee. Rev. Roberts had a love for Gospel Music at an early age. At the tender age of eleven, he played for his first choir, at the Zion Hill Baptist Church, Newark, NJ.

It was through Professor Robert Banks in 1953, that Rev. Roberts became the "first" Black Gospel Record Company Producer in the country. The tireless efforts of Lawrence Roberts, enabled Savoy Record Company to become a totally Gospel Label, ending its rhythm and blues status.

Rev. Roberts produced some of America's greatest gospel artists: the Clara Ward Singers, Alex Bradford, James Cleveland, the Roberta Martin Singers, Rosie Wallace, Mattie Moss Clark and the Choir of C.O.G.I.C, The O'Neal Twins, The Banks Brothers, Albertina Walker and the "*Legendary*" Caravans, Dorothy Norwood, Sister Rosette Thorpe, and a host of others on the Savoy label. He also worked with the Father of Gospel, Thomas Dorsey, Sallie Martin, the Queen of Gospel, Mahalia Jackson, and in later years, Cissy Houston and Queen Latifah.

In 1957, Rev. Roberts was called into the preaching ministry. In 1959 he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Nutley, New Jersey, to become

"A Light That Will Never Go Dim" cont'd

their Pastor. He served as Pastor for 38 years. Under God's direction, he built a new edifice and organized one of countries most famous choirs, *"The Angelic Choir"*. During his tenure, the divine paths of Rev. James Cleveland and Rev. Roberts came together. This collaboration produced 14 of the greatest Gospel Albums ever recorded. *"Peace Be Still"* and *"Stood on the Banks"* were among them. As a Gospel Innovator, in 1960, Rev. Lawrence Roberts introduced the WORLD to the first "live" in Church recording. For his efforts he received the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers Award. He authored more than 100 songs. Among them were *"I Had a Talk with God Last Night"*, *"He's Always Doing Something Good for Me"*, *"Stood on the Banks of Jordan"* and *"He's Still Working on Me"*.

Rev. Roberts and his Angelic Choir traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. His Ministry touched the lives of millions both in the world of Religion as well as those in the secular world. He's shared the stage with Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Roberta Flack, Sammy Davis Jr., Alvin Ailey and his Dance Co. and the great Ray Charles.

In 1967 he became the life long friend and confidant to tobacco heiress Doris Duke, Their friendship remained until her death in 1994.

Lawrence Roberts made his mark as a singer, songwriter, organist, and pianist. He retired from the main stream of Gospel as a traveling artist in 1992. Twenty-nine albums, numerous awards, and citations, provided an abundant amount of joy and gratification. This also enabled him to continue his work in serving GOD, and the people of GOD.

Anyone who knew him understood he was better than blessed. He obtained success and fame, yet he remained humble. All children and young adults referred to him as *"Uncle Lawrence"*. He had a wonderful rapport with them.

Following is a list of his affiliations and awards:

- The Bronze Shields, Newark NJ

"A Light That Will Never Go Dim" cont'd

- ❑ The Black Policemen, Newark, N.J.
- ❑ Board of Directors for Symphony Hall, Newark, NJ
- ❑ Member, Newark and Nutley Clergy Fellowship,
- ❑ Member, Operation Push
- ❑ Vice President, Baptist Assembly of Free Spirit Churches
- ❑ Member, Division of Aging in Essex County, New Jersey.
- ❑ Recipient, 1992 Centennial Medallion, Saint Peters College of Jersey City, New Jersey.
- ❑ Doctoral Degree of Sacred Scriptures, Pillar of Fire College and Pentecostal Seminary, York England.
- ❑ Inductee, International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum Detroit, Michigan (2005)
- ❑ Honoree, Walking in the Shadows Scholarship Foundation, Los Angeles, California (Dr. Mable John)
- ❑ Two Gold Records *"Peace Be Still, "I Stood on the Bank of Jordan"*
- ❑ Congressional Award (1994)
- ❑ Doctor of Divinity Degree, United Bible Seminary, Orlando, Florida
- ❑ Keys to the Cities of Newark, NJ, Nutley, NJ, New Orleans, La, and Spartanburg, South Carolina.
- ❑ Street named in his honor *"Rev. Roberts Place"*, Nutley Town Council
- ❑ 1st Recipient, Bobby Jones Vision Award

Rev. Roberts is heard on the sound track for the movie *"Sleeping with Anger"* starring Danny Glover. He was also organist on the "legendary" Sister Rosetta Thorpe's final album. His lectures on Gospel Music at High Schools, Universities, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the Smithsonian Institute, in Washington, DC, shall be cherished and remembered.

In 1998, Rev. Roberts was appointed *"Spiritual Advisor"* for Jubilation, New Jersey Performing Arts Center's house choir. In 2002, Rev. Roberts and (grandson) little Lawrence, joined Jubilation for a musical tour of Japan. That same year, Rev. Roberts recorded *"Somebody Saved Me"*, with Jubilation on their NJPAC *"Spirit"* CD.

"A Light That Will Never Go Dim" cont'd

Dorrance Publishing Co. published his autobiography, "The Gospel Truth", in 1993. In 2000 a second book entitled – "Gospel Through the Eyes of Rev. Lawrence C. Roberts" was written and published by Dr. Birdie Wilson Johnson, Ph.D.

In 1995, he along with his family became residents of Stone Mountain, GA. The Victory Church, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, became his Church home.

Rev. Robert's positive outlook on life made him proclaim, *"I expect the very best. My positive expectations draws to me the blessings that have already been prepared for me, because my God has promised to supply all of my needs according to his riches in glory. God has blessed my going out and my coming in. I live happy, safe, secure, protected, prosperous, and healthy. I am free from fear; for God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind. All that has happened has happened because Greater Is He that is in me, than he that is in the World".*

To cherish his memory with love forever is his devoted and loving wife, Dolores (Bootsy); His son, Derrick (Gwendolyn) Roberts; Two daughters, Vanessa (Darryl) Walker and Renee (Stanley) Whitney; Two sisters, Debbie and Jennifer; Six grandchildren, Dawn (Timothy) Miles, Darna Robinson, Dana Royster, Lawrence Robinson, Daisha Roberts and Evan Whitney; Three great-grandsons, Tyler Miles, Derrell Farrar and Trey Miles; Three sisters-in-law; Two brothers-in-law; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

"Do not ever forget how you made my life worth living. This is a journey that we must all take and each must go alone. It's all a part of the Master's Plan. A step on the road going home. ***Let Me Go***".

"A Light That Will Never Go Dim"



Rev. Dr. Lawrence C. Roberts
August 12, 1936 – July 14, 2008

SPECIAL THANKS

Rev. Allan S. Potts, Sr. and the Greater
Abyssinian Baptist Church
Perry Funeral Home – Virginia Perry,
President and Sam Arnold, *Manager*
Rev. Eddie Allen and the Philemon B.C.,
Newark, NJ
Hospitality Volunteers
Ronnie and Liz Scruggs
Jackie Greadington
Yvonne Walls Winslow
Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker
.....and all of you for your presence
If we've forgotten anyone,
count it to our head and not our heart!

The LCR Memorial Team

Cheryl M. Hawk
Freeman Johnson
Pearl T. Minatee
Rev. Stefanie R. Minatee
Raymond "Gene" Murphy